For at the time of the episode of the gopis,* made the subject of so many low attacks, we are taught that the Lord, in His human body, was only eight or nine years old, and that the gopis had been in their past lives great sages who now re-incarnated at the same time as the infant Lord, in the same place where Shri Krishna was born. As in the Divine Comedy of Dante, the Saviour when he ascended from Hades carried with him the souls of Patriarchs, so the Lord in his incarnation of Krishna gave these sages an Opportunity of showing their devotion to Him.

Dante was beyond all doubt an Initiate of the Eastern Wisdom, for he shows an accurate knowledge of the life intermediate after "death." How all have received there the exact meed they have earned, how those who sinned through passion are tossed about ceaselessly in the dark air by the most furious winds. How those whom anger overcame and who were "sad in the sweet air" were confined in the murky

Stygian
Lake.

* Milkmaids. t "Inferno/" Canto XII.

t *Ibid.* Canto V. § *IKd.* Canto VII.

And